

Transgender Identities & Communities

Different cultures across time and around the world have conceptualized gender identity, and gender expression differently. Currently transgender is a broad term that refers to people who experience their gender identity or express their gender in ways that do not conform to their assigned sex at birth.

Transgender identified people may but do not necessarily:

- Prefer male pronouns, female pronouns, or gender nonspecific pronouns such as ze, hir, or hirself.
- Choose to change their names and/or gender markers.
- Choose to pursue hormone therapy, surgical intervention, or electrolysis to outwardly reflect their gender identity.
- Engage in binding, packing, enhancing, or tucking to outwardly reflect their gender identity.
- Conform to societal expectations about gender expression.

Remember, there are infinite ways to arrive at being transgender and of being transgender.

People that identify as transgender are extremely diverse, and one trans-identified person cannot speak for all. People have intersecting identities related to race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion/spirituality, socioeconomic status, as well as other identities that are salient to them.

Trans-identified individuals experience a great deal of verbal harassment, physical assault, and discrimination in employment, health care, and housing. Victims of anti-trans violence are overwhelmingly transgender women of color. In 2016, there were 27 transgender-identified individuals murdered in the United States, the majority of whom were transwomen of color (Schmider 2016).

Books:

1. Kate Bornstein, *Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation* (2010).
2. Laura Erickson-Schroth (ed.), *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community* (2014).
3. Z Nicolazzo, Stephen John Quaye, and Reisten A. Renn, *Trans* In College: Transgender Students' Strategies for Navigating Campus Life and the Institutional Politics of Inclusion* (2016).

4. Susan Stryker, *Transgender History* (2008).
5. Nicholas Teich, *Transgender 101: A Simple Guide to a Complex Issue* (2012).
6. Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle (eds.), *The Transgender Studies Reader* (2006).

Websites:

1. National Center for Transgender Equality [<http://transequality.org/>] The National Center for Transgender Equality is the nation's leading social justice advocacy organization winning life-saving change for transgender people.
2. Sylvia River Law Project [<http://www.srlp.org>] The Sylvia Rivera Law Project works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination or violence.
3. TransFaith Online [<http://www.transfaithonline.org/>] Transfaith is a national non-profit that is led by transgender people. They are a multi-tradition, multi-racial, multi-gender organization working to support transgender spiritual/cultural workers and their leadership in community.
4. Fenway Transgender Health: [<http://fenwayhealth.org/care/medical/transgender-health/>] Fenway Health Transgender program is a leader in high quality, informed health care. "Whatever your gender, we've got you covered."
5. Day of Remembrance [<http://www.transgenderdor.org>] Annually on November 20th, Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.